

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration of the subject matter identified in caption, are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 have been canceled and replaced by new claim 9. Support for the new claim may be found on page 15, line 10 and in Figure 7.

Claim 9 is patentable over the references applied in the parent application. Verkuil (U.S. Patent No. 5,767,691) discloses a probe whose tip defines a first radius of 0.5 mil (about 12.5 μm) but this dimension is actually the diameter of the wire probe and the probe disclosed therein is of the single vertical type. Maeda (JP 11-148947) fails to disclose any particular radius of curvature for the tip portion of the probe which improves contact life time.

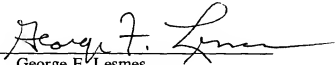
Early and favorable consideration with respect to this application is respectfully requested. Should any questions arise in connection with the application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at (703) 838-6683.

Respectfully submitted,

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